



**ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES**

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The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

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October 29, 2007

Mr. Dale Hall, Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Room 3238 - Main Interior Building  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dale

On behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association), I am writing with regards to the Federal-State Aquaculture Drug Approval Partnership Project (Project). Established in 1994, the Project has received the support of 38 member state fish and wildlife agencies and extensive expertise and funding from the Center of Veterinary Medicine of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The effort to obtain approval for eight important aquatic drugs has required tireless efforts of these federal agencies, a Drug Approval Working Group (DAWG), and the National Coordinator of Aquaculture New Animal Drug Application.

Speaking for the Association, its member states and our DAWG, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for the leadership and significant contributions provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) to our partnership efforts to obtain new, FDA-approved drugs for use in aquatic species. More specifically, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of the Service's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Program in Bozeman, Montana. AADAP's dedicated staff has played an absolutely essential role in our partnership's efforts, and has repeatedly stepped-up to the plate to tackle a myriad of onerous, drug approval-related issues that have stood in our path. Not only has AADAP successfully completed (and obtained FDA acceptance of) a variety of effectiveness and target animal safety technical sections for several recently approved drugs, but they have also completed, or are in the process of doing, the same for a number of other drugs which we anticipate will be approved soon. As a result of administering the Service's National INAD Program, AADAP has also played an indispensable role in assisting public (and private) aquaculture in gaining access to the temporary use of investigational drugs prior to these drugs being approved by FDA. In addition to providing an essential, current-day fisheries management tool, the use of investigational drugs has the added benefit of providing a mechanism whereby a broad range of effectiveness data required to gain ultimate approval for the investigational drug can be readily generated. The AADAP has also played a very important indirect role in gaining drug approvals for aquatic species; its website and quarterly newsletter have established a tremendous clearinghouse of

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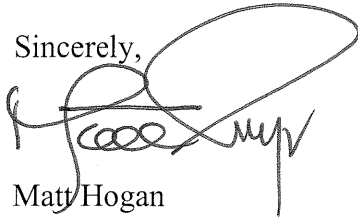
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information, permitting all of our partners (and end-users) to more effectively coordinate and plan research and management activities.

The Association strongly supports the continued efforts of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Service's AADAP Program to address the continuing needs of public aquatic resource management. The Project's collaborative effort of state and federal organizations is a powerful partnership that will result in continued new drug approvals to assist fisheries professionals in the protection and management of our nation's aquatic resource far into the future. Thank you for your continued contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Hogan', with a large, loopy flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Matt Hogan  
Executive Director

Cc: Dr. Mamie Parker  
Mr. Gary Frazer  
Mr. Everett Wilson  
Dr. Stuart Leon  
Mr. Dan Ashe  
Mr. Bill Knapp